

A1
(cont.)
an upright vertical direction generally parallel to the upright bucket wall to form a first vertical wall section having an outside radius and an inside radius said outside radius less than the inside radius of said upright bucket wall, said annular lip also comprising a vertical rim generally parallel to said first vertical wall section and having an inside and an outside, the inside having radius less than the radius of said annular upright bucket wall and greater than the outside radius of said first vertical wall section; and a single, generally horizontal annular flange extending from the first vertical wall section between and connecting the first vertical wall section and the vertical rim.

Please cancel claim 6.

Please cancel claim 7.

A2
Please amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) The combination of claim 1 wherein said horizontal annular flange projects radially beyond said vertical rim.

REMARKS

Claim 1 and claim 9 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Antecedent basis has been included with respect to the various features of the claim. The horizontal annular flange set forth in claim 1 has been specifically set forth and described as connecting the first vertical wall section and the vertical rim. The relationship between the radii of the various wall sections is now specifically set forth with clarity that is believed to obviate the objections pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112.

The claims are also believed now to be more clearly distinct from the prior art references, particularly Letica, U.S. Patent No. 4,429,805 and Letica, U.S. Patent No. 4,293,080. The Letica references describe a paint bucket wherein the bucket includes an annular bucket wall, an inclined wall extending inwardly and upwardly from the annular bucket wall, a vertical wall extending upwardly from the inclined inwardly extending wall and then subsequently another outwardly inclined wall (36) attached to an inclined rim (42) by a vertical connection section (38) which is aligned with the annular bucket wall.

It is noted that applicants' construction is distinct in a number of aspects. First, applicants' construction includes a ^{single, generally} horizontal annular flange extending from a "first vertical wall section" to a "vertical rim" to provide a connection therebetween. Second, the vertical rim of applicants' construction is situated radially inside of the upright bucket wall. This enables the construct of the present invention to provide a smooth outer appearance and surface when a lid is attached thereto. Additionally, with the construction of the present invention, it is possible to mold the product without the use of a collapsible mold because of the particular arrangement of the various walls. Consequently, there are structural details differentiating the subject matter of the present invention from the prior art and those structural details result in various functional distinctions.

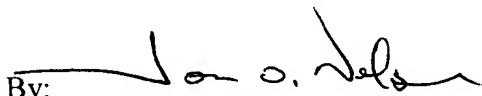
In view of the foregoing, therefore, it is believed that the claims in their amended condition are allowable. Reconsideration of the claims and passage thereof to allowance is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A plastic bucket comprising, in combination: *which radius*
an upright, annular bucket wall having an inside wall radius, said upright bucket
wall terminating in an annular lip to form an open bucket mouth, said annular lip comprising a
single annular wall portion extending upwardly from said upright bucket wall radially inwardly
along a diagonal path to an upper end, said annular lip further extending from said upper end in
an upright vertical direction generally parallel to the upright bucket wall to form a first vertical
wall section having [a] an outside radius and an inside radius, [over the range of the thickness
thereof] said outside radius less than the inside radius of said upright bucket wall [over the range
of the thickness thereof], said annular lip also [consisting] comprising a vertical rim generally
parallel to said first vertical wall section and having an inside and an outside, the inside having
radius less than the radius of said annular upright bucket wall and greater than the outside radius
of said first vertical wall section; and a single, generally horizontal [connection ledge] annular
flange extending from the first vertical wall section between and connecting the first vertical wall
section and the vertical rim.

Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) The combination of claim 1 wherein said horizontal [wall] annular
flange projects radially beyond said vertical rim.